

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1070

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of George Hathes Ritter of Red Boiling Springs.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of George Hathes Ritter; and

WHEREAS, George Ritter was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on April 24, 1928, in Clay County, George Hathes Ritter was the oldest son of George Dewey and Lovie Brandon Ritter and grew up on a farm outside Red Boiling Springs; and

WHEREAS, a gallant military veteran, George Ritter was inducted into the United States Army in November 1950 and rendered sterling service with the 45th Infantry Division in the Medical Company assigned to the 179th Division, Company F in Korea; and

WHEREAS, attaining the rank of Sergeant before his discharge in May 1952, George Ritter was awarded a number of medals and decorations for his military service, including the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the United Nations Service Medal, the Army Occupation Medal (Japan), the Bronze Medal with Valor Device GO 355 Headquarters 45th Infantry Division, and the Combat Medical Badge; and

WHEREAS, a proud veteran, George Ritter was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, where he was a past Post Commander of the Red Boiling Springs chapter; and

WHEREAS, after returning to civilian life, he completed agricultural courses under the G.I. Bill and went on to serve as a deputy sheriff in Macon County from 1960 to 1966 while also

working part-time for the City of Red Boiling Springs collecting privilege license fees and penalties; and

WHEREAS, during this time, he assisted in the gathering of evidence that led to the solving of a hit-and-run death that dated back to 1944, which resulted in a feature article on the case in the August 26, 1967, edition of the *Saturday Evening Post*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ritter's service to Red Boiling Springs dates back to 1955, when he became a charter member of the Red Boiling Springs Volunteer Fire Department and served as the organization's chief mechanic, repairing old fire engines donated from the University of Tennessee and other sources; and

WHEREAS, George Ritter also served as the Chief of Police for Red Boiling Springs from 1966 to 1969 and later served as a reserve officer under Police Chief Rex Gann; he was paid five dollars per arrest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ritter was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joe Ann Draper Ritter, and his daughter, LaCresia Carter, George Ritter will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his daughter, Pamela Hooks; his grandson, Eric Hooks; his sister, Edna Davis; his brother, Willard Ritter; and a foster son, Chris Davenport; and

WHEREAS, George Hates Ritter leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of George Hates Ritter, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ritter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.